

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUCAR 02296 211513 Z

51

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ADP-00 AID-20 EB-11 NSC-10 RSC-01

CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 LAB-06

SIL-01 L-03 H-02 PA-03 PRS-01 USIA-12 TAR-02 SCI-06

EPA-04 CEQ-02 AGR-20 RSR-01 /203 W

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R 211458 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5704

INFO AMCONSUL MUNICH

USMISSION GENEVA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUCHAREST 2296

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PINT EGEN RO

SUBJECT: NEW ROMANIAN LEGISLATION IMPORT DUTIES AND
LOCAL ADMINISTRATION

1. SUMMARY: FOLLOWING CC PLENUM, GRAND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
CONVENED ON JUNE 20 FOR BRIEF ONE- DAY SESSION TO ENACT
LEGISLATION ESTABLISHING IMPORT TARIFF SYSTEM, ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION, AND MEASURES AFFECTING LOCAL ADMINISTRATION.
TEXT OF IMPORT TARIFF LAW NOT YET AVAILABLE, BUT IT WILL
APPARENTLY AUTHORIZE IMPOSITION OF IMPORT DUTIES ON
RECIPROCAL BASIS, INCLUDING HIGHER SCHEDULES FOR COUNTRIES
NOT GRANTING MFN TREATMENT. ALTHOUGH NO ONE YET NOMINATED,
IT APPEARS THAT TROFIN WILL HEAD NEW COMMITTEE FOR
PROBLEMS OF PEOPLES COUNCILS WHICH REPLACES STATE
COMMITTEE FORMERLY HEADED BY BLAJOVICI. END SUMMARY.

2. AS EXPLAINED BY FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER PATAN, TARIFF
LAW WILL PERMIT IMPOSITION ON ONE- YEAR EXPERIMENTAL
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PAGE 02 BUCAR 02296 211513 Z

BASIS BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 1974 OF IMPORT DUTIES BASED ON TARIFF RECIPROCITY. THUS, NO DUTIES WILL BE LEVIED ON IMPORTS FROM COUNTRIES WHICH EXEMPT ROMANIAN PRODUCTS FROM CUSTOMS TAXES, AND RECIPROCAL DUTY SCHEDULE WILL BE ESTABLISHED FOR OTHERS, INCLUDING HIGHER DUTIES FOR COUNTRIES WHICH DO NOT GRANT MFN TARIFF TREATMENT. COMMENT: CEAUSESCU ANNOUNCED INTENTION TO ENACT IMPORT TARIFF LEGISLATION AT JULY 1972 NATIONAL PARTY CONFERENCE IN TERMS SUGGESTING THAT PURPOSE WAS TO OBTAIN BARGAINING LEVERAGE.

3. LEGISLATION ESTABLISHING COMMITTEE FOR PROBLEMS OF PEOPLES COUNCILS (ALSO DECIDED AT JULY 1972 CONFERENCE) WAS INTRODUCED BY TROFIN, THUS IMPLYING THAT HE WILL BE NAMED PRESIDENT OF THIS NEW PARTY AND STATE BODY WHICH ASSUMED FUNCTIONS OF STATE COMMITTEE FOR ECONOMY AND LOCAL ADMINISTRATION (SCELA). THIS ALSO SUGGESTED BY ENACTING LEGISLATION WHICH PROVIDES THAT PRESIDENT AND FIRST VICE PRESIDENT WILL BE MEMBERS OF COUNCIL OF MINISTERS. COMMENT: AFTER BLAJOVICI' S TRANSFER FROM SCELA TO ORADEA JUDET JOB, WE HAD HEARD TROFIN WOULD REPLACE HIM (AND EVEN THAT TROFIN HAD BEGUN TO SIT AT SCELA).

4. NEW COMMITTEE APPEARS TO HAVE MOST OF ATTRIBUTES AND FUNCTIONS OF THE OLD, WITH AN EXECUTIVE BUREAU AND " PERMANENT APPARATUS." IT DIFFERS CHIEFLY IN EFFORT MADE TO INCREASE INVOLVEMENT OF JUDET PRESIDENTS (WHO ARE ALSO FIRST PARTY SECRETARIES) BY NAMING THEM AS MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE WHICH IS TO HOLD PLENARY SESSIONS AT LEAST TWICE A YEAR OR AS OFTEN AS NECESSARY. MARTENS

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